

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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TAGS: PINT, PGOV,BB

SUBJECT: TRINIDAD GUARDIAN ARTICLE ON NEWLY-ELECTED BARBADOS
PARLIAMENT

1. TRANSMITTED HERewith IS AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED
IN THE SEPTEMBER 4 EDITION OF THE TRINIDAD GUARDIAN:
"EIGHT LAWYERS IN WINNING BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY TEAM"

"THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY (BLP) WHICH HAS BEEN IN
OPPOSITION FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS, EWEPT THE POLLS IN
GENERAL ELECTIONS YESTERDAY WINNING 17 OF THE ISLAND'S
PARLIAMENTARY SEATS.

"THE REMAINING SEVEN SEATS WERE WON BY THE DEMOCRATIC
LABOUR PARTY (DLP) LED BY OUTGOING PRIME MINISTER ERROL
BARROW, WHO RETAINED HIS CONTROL OF THE ST. JOHN
CONSTITUENCY.

"AMONG THE 17 DLP CANDIDATES THE ELECTORATE REJECTED
WERE FOUR FORMER GOVERNMENT MNISTERS--THREE OF WHOM
SAT IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

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"THEY WERE MR. PETER MORGAN WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF

TOURISM, MR. PHILIP GREAVES (HOUSING), MR. ANDERSON MORRISON (AGRICULTURE) AND ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF LEGAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS MR. GEORGE MOE WHO HAD BEEN APPOINTED FROM THE SENATE.

"MR MOE, IN HIS SECOND UNSUCCESSFUL BID TO WIN A PARLIAMENTARY SEAT, POLLED 2,278 VOTES IN THE ST. JAMES CONSTITUENCY TO 2,935 BY THE BLP'S LIONEL CRAIG.

"ANOTHER MINISTER WHO WAS APPOINTED FROM THE SENATE, BRANFORD TAIT, WON HIS SEAT, ST MICHAEL SOUTH WEST, AT THE FIRST TRY BUT WILL NOW HAVE TO SIT IN THE OPPOSITION.

"ONE OF THE NOTABLE REJECTS IS BARBADOS WORKER'S UNION GENERAL SECRETARY, MR. FRANK WALCOTT, WHO WAS A GOVERNMENT BACK BENCHER IN THE LAST PARLIAMENT.

"HE LOST HIS ST. MICHAEL WEST SEAT TO NEWCOMER MR. VIC JOHNSON, A MANAGEMENT SOCIOLOGIST WITH THE BARBADOS INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY.

"WHEN PARLIAMENT RECONVENES, THERE WILL BE 10 NEW FACES IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY--NINE FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT AND ONE (BRANFORD TAITT) ON THE OPPOSITION.

"FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF GOVERNMENT MP'S:

"MR. J G M (SIC) 'TOM' ADAMS, 44, ATTORNEY AT LAW, TIPPED TO BE PRIME MINISTER--THIRD TERM; MR. HENRY FORDE, 43, ATTORNEY--SECOND TERM; MR. LIONEL CRAIG, 48, BUSINESSMAN--THIRD TERM.

"MR. BURTON HINDS, 58, JOURNALIST AND COMMERCIAL PRINTER--THIRD TERM; MR. LINDSAY BOLDEN, 45, ATTORNEY--SECOND TERM; MR. DAVID SIMMONS, 36, ATTORNEY--FIRST ENTERED PARLIAMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR IN BY-ELECTION; MISS BILLIE MILLER, 32, ATTORNEY--FIRST ENTERED PARLIAMENT EARLIER THIS YEAR IN BY-ELECTION; AND "MR. BERNARD ST. JOHN 45, ATTORNEY--REGAINED SEAT LOST IN 1971.

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"MR. L.B. BRATHWAITE, 51 REAL ESTATE AGENT; MR. DELISLE BRADSHAW, 35, TEACHER; MR. EZRA ALLEYE, 32 ATTORNEY; MR. VICTOR JOHNSON, 43, MANAGEMENT SOCIOLOGIST.

"MR. JACK ODLE, 50, CHEMIST AND BUSINESSMAN; MR. LEROY SISNETT, 35, RADIO ANNOUNCER; MR. LOUIS TULL, 38, ATTORNEY; AND MR. MAURICE WARD, 47, BUSINESSMAN.

(DR. RICHARD J. JOHHNY" CHELTENHAM, LAWYER, 34, WAS INADVERTENTLY OMIT
TED.)

"LIST OF OPPOSITON MPS:

"MR. ERROL BARROW, 56, ATTORNEY (FORMER PRIME
MINISTER); MR. FREDERICK SMITH 52, ATTORENY (FORMER
MINISTER OF EDUCATION; MR. RAMESES CADDLE, 43, PHYSICIAN
(FORMER MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS).

"MR. ERSKINE SANDIFORD, 39, EDUCATOR (FORMER MINISTER
OF HEALTH); MR. EVELYN GREAVES, 36, ECONOMIST AND
ASSISTANT TO GENERAL SECRETARY OF BARBADOS WORKERS
UNION; MR. REYNOLD WEEKES, 63, BUSINESSMAN AND MR.
BRANDFORD TAITT, 38, EXECUTIVE (FORMER MINISTER OF TRADE).

THE ELECTION RESULT SHOWED A MARKED SWING AWAY
FROM THE DLP WHICH HELD 16 SEATS IN THE PREVIOUS
ASSEMBLY. THE SWING VARIED FROM EIGHT PERCENT TO 30
PERCENT.

"MR. ADAMS PUT THIS DOWN TO A FEELING AMONG THE
PUBLIC THAT IT WAS TIME TO CHANGE NOT ONLY THEIR
REPRESENTATIVES BUT ALSO THEIR GOVERNMENT.

"ADAMS HIMSELF WON CLEARLY IN ST. THOMAS CONSTITUENCY
POLLING 2,813 VOTES TO 1,744 (A DIFFERENCE OF 1,069)
BY THE DLP CANDIDATE JOSEPH 'HAPPY' BRYAN.

"IN 1971 ADAMS WON FROM A FORMER MINISTER MR. NEVILL
BOXHILL BY A MERE 64 VOTES.

"HE AGREED WITH A REPORTERS SUGGESTION THAT THE
WIDE MARGIN OF VICTORY VINDICATED HIS CONDUCT.
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"OUTGOING LEADER BARROW ALSO WON CONVINCINGLY IN
HIS STRONGHOLD ST. JOHN CONSTITUENCY POLLING 3,190
VOTES TO 1,110 BY HIS NEAREST RIVAL, HUTSON LINTON A
30-YEAR-OLD LAWYER OF THE BARBADOS LABOUR PARTY.

"BUT THERE WERE ALSO SOME CLIFFHANGER. IN THE DICEY
ST. PHILIP NORTH CONSTITUENCY, BLP CANDIDATE DAVID
SIMMONS GOT HOME BY A MERE SEVEN VOTES, RECEIVING 2,045
TO 2,038 BY HIS OPPONENT MR. WARRICK FRANKLIN.

"SIMMONS WON THE SEAT BY 173 VOTES IN A BY ELECTION
IN FEBRUARY.

"ATTRACTIVE LAWYER MISS BILLIE MILLER, ANOTHER BLP

CANDIDATE WHO ENTERED THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY THROUGH A BY ELECTION VICTORY EARLIER THIS YEAR FOUND HERSELF GETTING BACK BY A MARGIN OF 73 VOTES COMPARED WITH 400 IN MAY FOR BRIDGETOWN.

"A SIMILAR MARGIN SEPARATED DELISLE BRADSHAW (BLP) FROM JOHN CONNELL FOR THE ST. MICHAEL SOUTH EAST CONSTITUENCY AND OUTGOING EDUCATION MINISTER FREDERICK SMITH RETAINED HIS DSEAT BY GETTING 21 VOTES MORE THAN THE BLP CANDIDATE.

2. COMMENT: THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE VICTORIOUS BLP IS 42, THE YONGEST 32, THE OLDEST 58, WITH 6 IN THEIR THIRTIES. DLP AVERAGES 46, THE YOUNGEST 36, OLDEST 63. AND 3 IN THE 30 AGE GROUP. FORMER PM BARROW, A RPOUD MAN WHO DOES NOT TAKE SET-BACKS KINDLY, HAS NOT MADE HIS INTENTIONS KNOWN AS TO TAKING HIS SEAT IN THE NEW HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. FORMER PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY REYNOLD WEEKES, 63, WHO, AFTER ANNOUNCING HIS RETIREMENT FROM POLITICS, WAS CALLED BACK AND SUCCESSFULLY CONTESTED HIS SEAT, IS NOW BESET WITH ILLNESS AND MAY NOT REJOIN THE HOUSE. BURTON HINDS, UNHAPPY BECAUSE HE WAS NOT GIVEN AMINISTRY, NOW THREATENS TO QUIT THE BLP, THE HOUSE, OR BOTH. THUS, SOME BARBADIANS MAY GO BACK TO THE POLLS BEFORE YEAR-END TO DEAL WITH SEVERAL BY-ELECTIONS. LASTLY, CLOSELY-CONTESTED RACES UNCLASSIFIED

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INVOLVING FORMER DLP MINISTERS CADDLE AND SANDIFORD MAY END UP THE COURTS, ACCORDING TO ONE BLP SPOKESMAN, BECUASE OF "IRREGULARITIES."
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